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Date: April 1, 2003

By: Lynnale Anderson

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Hooper et al.

SERIAL No.: 09/938,439

FILED: August 23, 2001

FOR: MULTIPLE-SITE SAMPLE-HANDLING APPARATUS
AND METHOD

EXAMINER: Sisson, B.

ART UNIT: 1634

CONFIRMATION No.: 4124

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

JUL 09 2003

Petition to Withdraw Holding of Abandonment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.181(a)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

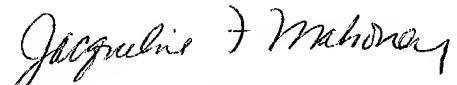
1. On September 13, 2002, Applicants timely filed a Response to the Office action dated September 3, 2002. Included was an Amendment in Response to Restriction Requirement, and a postcard for return receipt.
2. On September 18, 2002, the Response was received at the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as evidenced by the stamped receipt postcard enclosed herewith.
3. This petition is timely filed within two months from the March 20, 2003 mail date of the Notice of Abandonment.
4. Applicants submit herewith a true copy of the response mailed September 13, 2002.

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5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the holding of abandonment as a response was timely filed on September 13, 2002.

6. No fees are believed due with this petition. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge any deficiency in fees herein to Deposit Account No. 50-2207.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacqueline F. Mahoney
Registration No. 48,390

Date: April 1, 2003

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